

DUVAL VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION ACADEMY

SAC Minutes – 11/24/2020

Attendance:

Brick-and-mortar

Mr. Ertel (principal), Dr. Zenke (community member/chairman), Kelly Fanning (teacher/secretary)

Virtual

Fearell Blue (teacher), Staci Bogan (teacher), Gary Avery (teacher), Monica Knighton, Allison Thompson-Messick (Parent)

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Duval Virtual Instruction Academy School Advisory Council was held in the at the Live Campus (Wolfson High School, Rm 56) and in GoToMeetings (<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/275668877>) on November 24th, 2020. Mr. Ertel called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. Kelly Fanning will record minutes for this meeting.

New Business:

1. **Welcome.** Mr. Ertel welcomed the members and attendees. He asked for Dr. Zenke and Fearell Blue to provide updates on current teachers/staff (and their families) experiencing acute medical issues. He expressed concern and support for the staff members (and their families) who are facing this adversity.
2. **Staff Increase and ESE.** Mr. Ertel addressed the expansion of DVIA's faculty/staff and explained the issue with "outside" hiring as well as transfers as they became available. He also discussed the move towards a more "synchronous" learning for DVIA's ESE students once both VE vacancies are filled.
3. **Testing.** Ms. Bogan inquired about an update on the verbiage to use with parents who are resistant to the mandated testing in the physical school buildings, noting that many parents enrolled in DVIA's virtual program due to COVID and safety concerns about exposure. Mr. Ertel advised that he will seek counsel and provide Mrs. Bogan with appropriate, legal language to use in all school communications about testing mandates and related information.
4. **Mid-Year Enrollment and Duval HomeRoom.** Mr. Ertel emphasized that, in the event that Duval HomeRoom is discontinued in January per state legislation, DVIA will NOT be accepting new students into the program this school year. If students want to remain in a virtual setting in the district, they can be registered as "Home Ed" students and proceed with the Duval Flex program.
5. **Student Success.** Ms. Thompson-Messick expressed concern about student pacing. She asked if this was a school-wide issue or if it was isolated to her student. Mr. Ertel and Mrs. Fanning advised that the biggest hurdle with DVIA's program has historically been student pacing. They went on to emphasize that this year, however, is particularly troublesome with the drastic influx of new students and teachers coupled with the social/emotional burden of COVID's social-distancing guidelines. Ms. Thompson-Messick explained that one complaint her student had was the inability to fast forward the video lectures in Edgenuity. Mrs. Fanning explained that the reason for this prohibitive mechanism was to ensure that students do not miss important instruction/exposure to content. Ms. Thompson-Messick questioned if there was an alternative for students who already knew the content being delivered in the Edgenuity videos. Mrs. Fanning and Mr. Ertel explained that the students can reach out to their teacher and express their understanding. The DVIA teachers have the discretion to bypass the assignment based on a verbal (or other) assessment of the content that is to be "bypassed." Ms. Thompson-Messick also expressed a universal concern of all parents of virtual students: non-educational technology. Many parents do not want to take the phone away from the student for safety/communication reasons (and because it is often needed for verbal checkpoints). Many parents are also unable to supervise their student during the designated school hours due to career/job obligations. Mrs. Fanning introduced a smartphone application that allows parents to remotely control web-browsing, apps, screen-time allowance, social media, etc). The app is called "OurPact."
6. **Technology.** Mr. Avery updated attendees about the district ordering 60,000 new laptops to account for un-tracked laptops issued in the spring of 2020, at the onset of the COVID crisis.
7. **Vote on Next Meeting Time.** Tuesday, January 26th, 2020 at 11:30 am.

Open Agenda

Mr. Avery discussed the 6.5% budget cut that is supposed to be implemented in January. Mr. Ertel explained that Superintendent, Dr. Diana Green had already anticipated for a cut with 6% in reserve.

Mr. Ertel asked if anyone in attendance had any questions or comments (to which there was no reply).

Next Meeting Date & Time:

Tuesday, January 26th, 2020 at 11:30 am.

Meeting Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Name of Recorder: Kelly Fanning

Name of Position on Board: Secretary

Approval Date: _____